

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /080 W

----- 011271

R 080900Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2897

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 3276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, EAID, SU, KE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. KENYAN DELEGATION HEADED BY CHIEF ENGINEER G. WABOK VISITING KHARTOUM LAST WEEK AND AGREED WITH SUDANESE TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF JUBA-KAPOETA-LODWAR ROAD TO LINK SUDAN DIRECTLY WITH KENYA. ACCORDING SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO NORWAY TO FINANCE THIS HIGHWAY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IBSEN, VISITING FROM CAIRO, TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST NOVEMBER THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO OSLO THAT NORWEGIANS FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALL-WEATHER GRAVEL ROAD THROUGH KAPOETA TO KENYA. THIS ROAD WOULD BYPASS UGANDA AND MEET ANOTHER ROAD IN NORTHERN KENYA WHICH IS ALSO BEING FINANCED BY NORWAY. IBSEN ESTIMATED SUDAN ROAD SEGMENT WOULD COST ABOUT \$20 MILLION AND APPEARED OPTIMISTIC THAT
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NORWAY WOULD APPROVE PROJECT.

3. COMMENT: PROJECT IS SIGNIFICANT TO SUDAN FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS. DIRECT SUDAN-KENYA LAND TRANSPORT LINK WOULD PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT LINK VIA UGANDA. DURING KENYA-UGANDA CRISIS LAST SUMMER, SUDANESE WERE REMINDED THAT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES COULD SERIOUSLY HARM SUDAN. FOR EXAMPLE, BADLY NEEDED PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR SOUTHERN REGION WERE INTERRUPTED LAST SUMMER WHEN KENYA REFUSED TO ALLOW PETROLEUM SHIPMENTS INCLUDING THOSE DESTINED FOR SUDAN TO GO TO UGANDA. IN ADDITION, ROAD PROJECT WOULD BE DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF CONCERN BY GOS IN KHARTOUM FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN AND WOULD THEREFORE BE POLITICALLY BENEFICIAL IN DOMESTIC TERMS. THESE FACTORS OUTWEIGH PREVIOUS CONCERN THAT ROAD WOULD TEND DRAW EQUATORIA AWAY FROM KHARTOUM TOWARD NAIROBI. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
BREWER

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NNN

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